

SUE KAPLAN 763 NOWITA PLACE

Postal Regulatory Commission  
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Office of the Secretary  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NVV, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

In the Matter of:

Venice Main Post office, Venice, California 90291

Docket no: A2012-17

Sue Abbe Kaplan, petitioner

### PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner is appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Venice post office. The Final Determination was posted September 23, 2011.
2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. S 404(dx5), the Petitioner requests the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

Commissioners:

Thank you for accepting this petition for appeal. This petitioner supports Representative Hahn's statements regarding further degradation of the currently substandard window service wait time by reducing the number of available windows at the proposed new location, the failure of the proposal to account for required compliance with local planning and zoning codes, including Environmental and Traffic studies, and the proposal's remarkably low "relocation" cost estimate.

This petitioner agrees with concerns voiced by fellow stakeholders about numerous compliance failures - insufficient notice, flawed claims of "adequate" parking and of the Carrier Annex's insufficient planning for an increased customer base, and the lack of a proper hearing, etc.

Further, this petitioner calls your attention to the following

1. Claim that no further review right existed on this issue: Consideration of these appeals, and of appeals submitted by fellow petitioners, shows that assertion to be faulty on its face. Taken with reports that VMPO fails to provide adequate mailing and shipping supplies and fails to provide adequate service times subjecting customers to long waits, when no local alternative exists, the claim calls into question the procedural adequacy of closing the VMPO. The facilities, both inside and outside do not receive

the minimum maintenance resulting in an uninviting environment.

2. The post office has been recognized as meeting requirements of a Historic Cultural resource. The decision to close this branch has failed to consider the historic and cultural contributions the Venice Post Office has delivered to the Venice community for seventy-two years: Built during the Great Depression under the Works Projects Administration - employing out-of-work Americans - the facility features in its lobby a priceless mural of Venice and its founder by noted artist Edward Biberman. Loss of this historic facility would deal a severe double blow to the community. Venetians are known for robust debate on all matters - with one exception: The community's disparate factions come together to agree on the importance of retaining the Venice Post Office in its current incarnation.
3. Failure to consider the location's value: The Postal Service recognizes the need for a building presence in Venice but fails to take into consideration the consequences of moving minimal services to the Annex. Were the Postal Service to sell the VMPO and flout local zoning and land use codes to move a fraction of its services to the nearby Postal Annex, the next time the agency considers selling the Annex (as it did some two years ago), it will be unable to do so. Venetians and visitors, already robbed of adequate service by loss of the VMPO, will have to travel further to patronize neighboring Santa Monica's modest facility, which is already in full use in a busy district of its own. Many will simply stop using the Postal Service. Thus, the Postal Service will be unable to sell the much more valuable Annex property and will have lost any chance to benefit from retention of the VMPO after having jettisoned it in a depressed market.
4. Failure to consider impact on seventeen million annual tourists, who can today tour and patronize the Venice Post Office: To visitors in our highly eccentric, visitor-serving community, the Venice Post Office is our most recognizable symbol of national unity. It is a cornerstone of stability to all who live and visit here. The values of community and democracy play out everyday at the neighborhood post office. The gamut of people visiting, the conversations and contacts made are invaluable to the community.

Visits to the Postal Service, even with the minimum service now supplied, is a link to my community. Sending a piece of mail still means the same as when the post office was first founded: it is link to the wider world full of hope and anticipation of messages sent, goods received and a connection to family and friends. It is also about business. The historic post office in Venice is a brick and mortar symbol of that. Sending mail out to the world under the historic mural depicting the history of Venice is all of that. Please consider this petitioner's request and let a community take pride in its history while doing business with the US Postal Service.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Kaplan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Sue" is on the left and "Kaplan" is on the right, connected by a thin line. The signature is set against a light gray rectangular background.